

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Payne (US 5,420,779) in view of Okita (US 6,023,131).

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Specification is objected to because of informalities.

The Drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19-22, and 24 to further define the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-24 are pending.

Applicants concurrently file herewith six (6) sheets of replacement drawings that include changes to FIG. 5, as required by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Submitted currently herewith are a Substitute Specification and Version Showing Changes Made In Substitute Specification in response to the objection to the disclosure. Applicants respectfully assert that no new matter is introduced by the Substitute Specification.

Drawing Objections

The Drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Accordingly, Applicants concurrently file herewith six (6) sheets of replacement drawings that include changes to FIG. 5, as required by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Specification Objections

The Specification is objected to because of perceived informalities relating to use of the word “may.” Without acquiescing to the position that use of the word “may” in the specification somehow implies a degree of ambiguity regarding the function and description of Applicants’ claimed invention, Applicants concurrently submit herewith a Substitute Specification that removes every instance of the word “may.” In addition, Applicants concurrently submit herewith a Version Showing Changes Made In Substitute Specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that no new matter is introduced by the Substitute Specification, and respectfully request that the objections to the Specification be withdrawn.

All Claims Comply With 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the claims to overcome the rejections. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Payne (US 5,420,779) in view of Okita (US 6,023,131). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully assert that the signal disclosed by Payne for disabling the inverter 11 is different from the “inverter ON/OFF signal,” recited by independent claims 1, 9, and 18, and that the inverter of Okita is different from the inverter of the present invention from a functional point of view. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the combined teachings of Payne and Okita fail to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to claims 1-24.

Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn because the above-discussed novel combinations of features are neither taught nor suggested by any of the applied references, whether taken alone or in combination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments, reconsideration, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner believe that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this Response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants’ undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

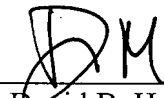
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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